



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**George Runner, Member**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Lancaster**

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Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

**For Immediate Release  
February 4, 2013**

NR 11-13-R  
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## **Free Income Tax Return Preparation at VITA Locations in Kern County**

**Sacramento** – Individuals and families who need help with income tax return preparation can visit Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) locations in Kern County. These free services are sponsored by the United Way of Kern County and Board Member George Runner.

“This program provides free tax preparation to individuals and families who may not be able to afford a tax preparer. Connecting qualified earners with the Earned Income Tax Credit provides them with valuable support during difficult economic times and boosts our state and local economy,” said Runner.

The federal government is offering up to \$5,891 in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) to households earning less than \$50,270 annually. Free VITA events throughout California help qualified taxpayers receive much needed federal and state tax credits. Every year, VITA volunteers who have been trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), offer free tax filing assistance.

Qualifying individuals and families can obtain free tax preparation assistance at select schools, community centers, and nonprofit organizations throughout California.

Kern County residents can call 2-1-1 to make an appointment. To find other VITA locations, visit the IRS’ website at [http://bit.ly/2013\\_VITA](http://bit.ly/2013_VITA) or call 1-800-906-9887.

Additional information about the VITA program is available at Board Member Runner’s website at [www.boe.ca.gov/members/runner/vita.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/members/runner/vita.htm).

***Editor’s note: Listen to the 30-second VITA audio public service announcement (PSA) at [www.boe.ca.gov/news/VITA\\_211\\_30.mp3](http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/VITA_211_30.mp3). View the 30-second video PSA at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8R198AimhGw&list=UUXUVc-lAqBrjFfYmHTre5Yg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8R198AimhGw&list=UUXUVc-lAqBrjFfYmHTre5Yg).***

***Listen to the Spanish language 30-second audio PSA at [www.boe.ca.gov/news/VITA\\_spanish\\_211.mp3](http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/VITA_spanish_211.mp3). View the Spanish language 30-second video PSA at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=awsXmeaHEOc&list=UUXUVc-lAqBrjFfYmHTre5Yg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awsXmeaHEOc&list=UUXUVc-lAqBrjFfYmHTre5Yg).***

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Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents the State Board of Equalization's Second District. He is a leading advocate for California taxpayers. Runner has worked to improve California's tax policies and practices and to create and retain more private sector jobs in our state. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature, authoring the well-known California Amber Alert and California's Blue Alert. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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